



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

June 5, 2011, 12:45 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:

(402) 471-0900 nema.jic@nebraska.gov

Nebraska JIC Daily Update

All times are CDT, unless otherwise noted

** New Items and items with changes are listed in Red**

Flood-related resources and links can be found on the NEMA website at www.nema.nebraska.gov

State Response

Sandbagging Operation – In a cooperative effort to repair a levee east of North Platte between Cody Park and Highway 30, sandbags, personnel and equipment are being prepared. A crew of 14 National Guard will place sandbags on the levee using a Blackhawk UH60 helicopter. Operations will commence no later than Monday. Another UH60 Blackhawk helicopter with three guard members from Colorado is expected to arrive Tuesday to help with operations.

Residents should stay tuned to local news and follow directions from local and state officials. The Coast Guard restriction on recreational boats on the Missouri River along the Nebraska-Iowa border remains in effect.

Flood Hotline

A Nebraska Emergency Management Agency public information phone line, (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2454, will be staffed from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, including weekends**. The hotline is busy, please be patient.

Weather

For updated weather information weather: www.noaa.gov and www.weather.com

Road Information

Current road information is available from the Nebraska Department of Roads at: www.511nebraska.gov. Citizens are encouraged to find alternate routes. Do not drive over any road that is covered with flood waters. Do not remove road closure barricades. Barricades are in place for your safety.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Joint Information Center – (402) 996-3877 www.nwo.usace.army.mil email: MRJIC@usace.mil

Federal Emergency Management Agency

If you are not sure if you are in flood-prone area, check out the FEMA map service center:

<http://msc.fema.gov> **Flood insurance claims** -- According to a FEMA official, on existing flood insurance policy claims will be paid regardless of how the flooding was caused. For most new flood insurance policies there is a 30-day waiting period.

Local Health Departments

Every county in Nebraska is served by a local health department. A listing of health departments and the counties they serve is available at: www.dhhs.ne.gov/puh/oph/lhd.htm

Animal Health

Flood waters displace wild animals as well as humans. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) warns people to be aware of wild animals. The wildlife may act abnormally due to the stress of displacement. As animals interact and compete for the same resources, diseases such as rabies have an increased chance of transmission. DHHS always recommends avoiding direct contact with wild animals; however, under these circumstances they may be in unexpected places and act more aggressively. Flood waters may also displace reptiles such as snakes and turtles. Information on reptiles indigenous to Nebraska can be found at <http://snr.unl.edu/herpneb/>

Evacuations

Be safe and listen to public officials. Please evacuate if told to do so.

Washington/Burt County: Mandatory evacuations ordered. Some evacuations are voluntary.

Richardson County: Some voluntary north of Rulo.

Nemaha County: Voluntary evacuations from low land.

Cass County: Lake Waconda 40-110 homes.

Sarpy County: Iske Park and Elbow Bend some voluntarily, 6-12 homes all voluntary leaving.

Dixon County: Potential evacuations of large portions of the town of Newcastle and Ponca.

Dakota County: Some voluntarily; one shelter has been opened.

Lincoln County: Some voluntary evacuations

Shelters – Red Cross

The Red Cross has opened a shelter at the **Ft. Calhoun High School, 1506 Lincoln St., Fort Calhoun.**

South Sioux City Shelter – has opened at 3625 G St. in the South Sioux City Middle School.

For more information check www.redcross.org or call **1-800-RedCross** to find the chapter serving your area. Call **211** (human services helpline) to find out what resources are available; or visit the United Way of Midlands 211 website at <http://www.ne211.org> an additional number is **(402) 444-6666**.

Water Testing

Residents outside the Lincoln area can contact the Central District Health Department in Grand Island to test well water for Coliform bacteria in the majority of public and private wells statewide. Call (308) 385-5175 extension 160 for more information. Homeowners can also order kits from the Nebraska Public Health Environmental Laboratory by calling (402) 471-3935 and request a Colilert test kit (\$10) which can test for Coliform and E.coli. Homeowners need to collect the sample and return it to the lab within 30 hours of sample collection. Remember, if your drinking water looks, tastes, or smells odd...test it. Even if water has tested okay, it should be retested later to ensure bacteria hasn't permeated the well.

Flood Clean-Up Scams

Homeowners and businesses that have experienced flooding are asked to remain vigilant when it comes to hiring services or purchasing goods. For tips on avoiding home repair scams, please visit the Nebraska Better Business Bureau's website at www.nebraska.bbb.org or the Attorney General's website at www.ago.ne.gov. If

you feel you have been a victim of a clean-up or home improvement scam, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (800) 727-6432.

Insurance

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is the state agency to contact regarding flooding insurance. (402) 471-7405 or (402) 471-3932. Flood insurance claims -- According to a FEMA official, flood insurance is available and policy claims will be covered regardless of how a flood is caused.

Fire Safety

The State Fire Marshal reminds citizens that if your power is out, and you need to use a generator to make sure your generator has been tested /approved and is in proper working order. Try not to overload circuits, and continue to be cautious when there's a threat of lightning.

Additional Resources

Phone Numbers

Nebraska Flooding Hotline: Toll Free (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2452 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Nebraska Department of Insurance (877) 564-7323

Iowa Flooding Response (515) 725-3231 or **Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985**

South Dakota (605) 773-3132 or toll free at (877) 579-0015

US Army Corps of Engineers – Information Center (402) 996-3877

Web Sites

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency website www.nema.nebraska.gov

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' website has a comprehensive listing of flood resources at: <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/SevereStorms/>

Weather: www.noaa.gov and www.weather.com

River Levels: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps/>

NEMA on Face book: <http://www.facebook.com/nema.page>

Nebraska Department of Roads www.511nebraska.gov

County Updates:

Several counties have declared disasters; Knox, Dakota, Burt, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, Cass and Lincoln.

Washington and Burt: Power was turned off to flooded areas and several roads are closed

Knox: Several roads underwater.

Dixon: Several roads underwater and cell service is not working and there are no land lines in the area.

Douglas: South Omaha waste treatment facility is offline and pumping 10 cubic feet per second into the river.

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